

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 00421 101909Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1874
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS LONDON 00421

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UK, EI
SUBJ: NORTHERN IRELAND: TORIES WEIGH IN ON LYNCH
STATEMENT

REF: LONDON 372

1. THE CONSERVATIVE SPOKESMAN ON NI, AIREY NEAVE, REACTED STRONGLY TO THE REPORTED WEEKEND STATEMENT BY IRISH PRIME MINISTER LYNCH, LEAVING NO DOUBT THAT THE TORIES CONCUR IN HMG'S VIEW THAT IT WAS ILL-TIMED, DAMAGING TO POLITICAL PROSPECTS IN NI, AND HARMFUL TO UK/IRISH RELATIONS. THE JANUARY 10 PRESS REPORTS THAT NEAVE ALSO INDICATED HIS INTENTION TO COMPLAIN TO THE IRISH AMBASSADOR.

2. NEAVE CHARACTERIZED LYNCH'S REMARKS ABOUT A POSSIBLE AMNESTY FOR IRA CONVICTS AS "INCREDIBLY DANGEROUS", AS THEY WOULD PERPETUATE THE "MYTHOLOGY OF THE ARMED STRUGGLE". HIS STATEMENT, AS QUOTED BY THE PRESS, SAID IN PART: "I PARTICULARLY REGRET THIS ACTION OF MR. LYNCH AT A TIME WHEN THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY WAS HOPING TO ESTABLISH GOOD RELATIONS WITH HIS GOVERNMENT. THE UNCLASSIFIED

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LONG AND PATIENT EFFORTS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION OVER RECENT MONTHS TO ACHIEVE WIDESPREAD AGREEMENT AMONG THE TWO COMMUNITIES IN NI HAVE NOW BEEN SET BACK".

3. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT IN FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN'S ABSENCE, MINISTER FRANC JUDD CALLED IN THE IRISH

AMBASSADOR TO EXPRESS HMG'S CONCERN OVER, AND REQUEST
CLARIFICATION OF, LYNCH'S REMARKS.

4. NI SECRETARY MASON ALSO REACTED SHARPLY FROM BELFAST.
HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY BY
CONGEN BELFAST.

BREWSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 10 jan 1978
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
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